

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11 and 13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 are amended to correct an informality. No new matter is added by this Amendment. In view of at least the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Personal Interview

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representatives by Examiners McGraw and Shaver in the February 21, 2008 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks. Claim 1 is amended based on the Examiners indication during the interview that the asserted art reference does not teach tip ends in direct contact with a beam, as recited in amended claim 1. Specifically, claim 1 is amended to recite, in part, "said tip ends of said extension portions are in direct contact with at least one beam extending from said swinging portion."

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claim 6 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As discussed below, claim 6 is amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as such, allowance of at least claim 6 is respectfully requested.

Applicant further thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 3-5 and 13 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all the limitations of the base claim.

In regard to claims 3-5, the amendment to claim 1, as discussed below, overcomes the §112 and §102 rejections of claim 1, as such, allowance of independent claim 1 is also respectfully requested.

In regard to claim 13, as discussed above, claim 6 is amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as such allowance of dependent claim 13 is also respectfully requested.

III. Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. This objection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that at least FIG. 6C shows a beam 133 as a continuous component of extension portion 132. The specification further provides that "[f]or the trigger 130 of this embodiment, the tip end 132e of the extension portion is supported integrally by the beam 133 with respect to the hook portion 131 to prevent the tip end from shifting transversely with respect to the spray direction and from becoming in a non-contact state with respect to the pull portion 131" (*emphasis added*, paragraph [0055]). Therefore, the specification provides proper antecedent basis for the feature "the at least one beam and at least one of the extension portions being a single continuous component," as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

IV. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that the specification describes the claimed subject matter in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the Applicant had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed. Specifically, the specification does provide support for the feature "the extension portions being a single continuous component," as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, as suggested by the Examiner, claims 1 and 6 are amended to specifically recite "a horizontal direction."

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

VI. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 7-9 and 11¹ under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of U.S. Application No. 6,267,271 (Tsuchida). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, independent claim 1 recites, in part, "said trigger includes a hook portion which is held to be swingable with respect to said body, and an elastic portion in which two extension portions integrally extending from a swinging portion of said hook portion are turned down, the turned-down portions are held with respect to said body, and tip ends of said extension portions are positioned to be capable of coming into contact with said hook portion" and "said tip ends of said extension portions are in direct contact with at least one beam extending from said swinging portion to provide a predetermined clearance from said hook portion, the at least one beam and at least one of the extension portions being a single continuous component" (*emphasis added*).

Applicant respectfully submits that the applied reference fails to teach, disclose or suggest a tip end of an extension portion positioned to be capable of coming into contact with a hook portion of the trigger and that is in direct contact with at least one beam. Wherein, the at least one beam integrally extends from a swinging portion of the hook portion of the

¹ The Office Action also rejects claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b); however, claim 12 was cancelled in a previous Amendment.

trigger, such that a predetermined clearance is provided from the hook portion and that the at least one beam is a single continuous component of at least one of the extension portions.

Tsuchida discloses "[a] trigger 3 hinged at a position of a front portion of the injector body 1, a reciprocating pump mechanism 4 provided in the injector body 1, a spring member 6 provided on an upper surface of the injector body 1 and outside the trigger 3" (*emphasis added*, col. 3, lines 27-31). Tsuchida further discloses "[t]he trigger 3 is forked at its upper end portion 35, which is provided with a cantilever shaft 36. The cantilever shaft 36 of the trigger 3 is inserted into the C-shaped upper portion 34 of the spring member 6, so that the trigger 3 can be pulled and returned around the shaft 36" (col. 5, lines 22-26). Therefore, Tsuchida does not disclose an elastic portion with two extension portions that integrally extends from a swinging portion of a hook portion of the trigger, as recited in claim 1.

Tsuchida further discloses "[t]he spring member 6 comprises a base plate 12 horizontally arranged and a pair of spring pieces 29. The base plate 12 includes a top wall 17, ribs 18, 19, 20 protruding downwardly from both sides of the top wall 17" (col. 3, lines 43-47). Tsuchida also discloses that "[e]ach of the spring pieces 29 made of synthetic resin is suspended or extended downwardly from the front portion of the base plate 12. Each of the spring pieces 29 comprises the main plate spring 32 at the front side (nozzle head 2 side) and the second plate spring 33 at the rear side (the plunger 5 side), which are connected in one at the lower end 30. The lower end 30 can be inserted into an upward pocket 31 provided at a middle portion of both sides of the trigger 3" (*emphasis added*, col. 5, lines 8-16). Therefore, Tsuchida also does not disclose at least one beam that is in direct contact with the tip ends of an extension portion, wherein the tip ends are positioned to be capable of coming into contact with the hook portion of the trigger, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Tsuchida fails to anticipate the above-quoted features recited in independent claim 1. Therefore, Tsuchida fails to teach each and every element recited in claim 1.

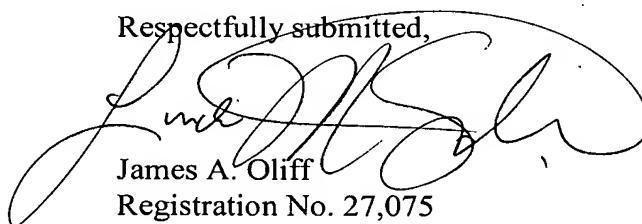
Claims 2, 7-9 and 11 depend from claim 1. Because Tsuchida fails to teach the features recited in independent claim 1, dependent claims 2, 7-9 and 11 are patentable for at least the reasons that independent claim 1 is patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:AAT/ccs

Date: February 28, 2008

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